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April 27, 1999

Mr. Lyle D. Jaffe
Dockets Management
FDA/DHHS
#12420 Parklawn Drive, Room #1 - 23
Rockville, MD 2-857

Re: Docket #98P-0203/CP

Dear Mr. Jaffe:

I am writing in support of Docket #98P-0203/CP, the petition to ban the forced molting of layer hens.

The practice of starving hens for weeks on end to coerce their weakened bodies into producing a few more eggs is beyond reproach. The tortured birds put through this unthinkable practice can lose up to 35% of their body weight, and many of the birds don't even survive.

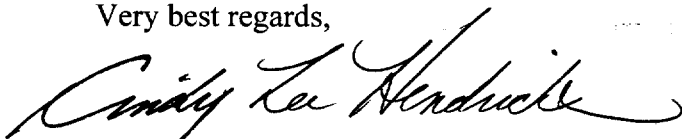
Forced molting was banned in Great Britain in 1987, and most European countries do not allow food deprivation for more than 24 hours. How can our country, who prides itself on protecting the weak and mistreated (even now in Yugoslavia) allow these defenseless hens to be starved (often to death)?

In addition, it should be law that each hen should be given a reasonable amount of room to live in. Each hen should, at the very least, have enough area to walk and stretch her wings. Anything less is cruel.

Farm animals feed us. In return, if nothing else, we ought to allow them to live naturally and perform their natural behaviors. Would God be pleased to see the way we handle His creatures on factory farms? We are the greatest country on earth and we cannot do better for our animals than shoving up to five hens in a cage no bigger than a folded newspaper?

I support the petition to ban the forced molting of hens, and I support whatever actions the US Food and Drug Administration can take to make this world a better one for the animals.

Very best regards,



Cindy Lee Hendricks

98P-0203

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